

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
March/April 2001



Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

Members of the Tipperary Amateur Radio group pictured with IRTS President Dave Moore EI4BZ during a recent visit to the club.

Dave accepted the new Slievenamon Shield on behalf of the society.
See page 11 for details.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

2 Metres Counties Contest

Monday April 16th

1400 - 1600 (local)

Note - new rules this year

This Newsletter is published monthly for members by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society.

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The views expressed in the Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
May 5th**

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Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Annual General Meeting Weekend

April 7th and 8th

Limerick Inn Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick

Annual Dinner Dance

Saturday 7th

Contact Paul EI6FE for tickets on 061-360122

Limerick Radio Club Rally

Sunday 8th at 1100

IRTS Annual General Meeting

Sunday 8th at 1500

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IRTS Trophies

The following trophies were awarded at last year's AGM.

If you have not already returned your trophy, please do so immediately or inform Peter Grant EI4HX of your intention to bring it to the AGM in Limerick.

Peter's phone number is 042-9332641

Pat Conway Cup	Mayo REN
Arup Cup	EI6GS
Collins Cup	EI2AK
President's Cup	EI7GY
Sheila Piper Cup	EI3CY
Folan Shield	EI5GG
Freeney Trophy	Not awarded
IRTS DX Trophy	EI5DI
Hal Hodgens Key	Not awarded
Pete Daly Cup	EI7M
Paddy Smyth Cup	EI7GY
Paddy Daly Microphone	EI7M
IRTS HF Shield	Mayo REN
Thomond Shield	EI7M
IRTS VHF Shield	Tipperary
Ian Morris Trophy	Not awarded

Nominations for the Conway Cup, the Arup Cup and the Collins Cup can still be submitted to Peter EI4HX.

Entries for the Folan Shield and the Kevin Freeney Trophy will be accepted on the day of the AGM.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

2 Metres Counties Contest

Monday April 16th

1400 - 1600 (local)

**Please check out new rules
See Page 12 in the current Year Book**

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Annual General Meeting 2001

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at 1500 on Sunday April 8th 2001 at the Limerick Inn, Ennis Road, Limerick.

The following are the Committee's nominations;

President	Dave Moore, EI4BZ
Vice-President	John Corless, EI7IQ

Committee

EI3GV	Brendan De hOra
EI3IX	Joe McFadden
EI4GK	Sean Donelan
EI4HX	Peter Grant
EI5DD	Steve Wright
EI5DI	Paul O'Kane
EI6FE	Paul Kirkby
EI6HW	Noel Mulvihill
EI6IR	John McDonnell
EI7CD	Sean Nolan
EI7IS	Mark Wall

As no other nominations were received by the Secretary, the above mentioned are deemed elected.

Accommodation in Limerick

Here is a list of a number of Bed and Breakfasts and Guest Houses in Limerick City; all these are quite close to the Limerick Inn Hotel.

Any further queries to Paul EI6FE on 061-360122 or any member of the Limerick Radio Club.

Name	Address	Phone.
Armada Lodge	1 Elm Drive, Ennis Rd	061-326993
Ashgrove House	42 Rossroe Ave, Caherdavin, Ennis Rd	061-453338
Coonagh Lodge	Coonagh East, Ennis Rd	061-327050
Clarehaven	Ennis Rd	061-455218
Clifton Guest Hse	Ennis Rd	061-451166
Culliney Mhor	Ennis Rd	061-328966
Dromatha	Ennis Rd	061-326302
Ennis House	2 Inagh Drive, Caherdavin, Ennis Rd	061-326257
Glen Eagles	12 Vereker Gds, Ennis Rd	061-455521
Lisheen	Coonagh, Ennis Rd	061-455393
Mount Gerard	O Connell Ave	061-314981
Rosmoy Town House	1 Alexandra Terrace, O Connell Ave	061-314556
Santa Cruz	10 Coolraine Terrace, Ennis Rd	061-454500
Santolina	Coonagh, Ennis Rd	061-451590
Travel Lodge	Ennis Rd	1800-709709
Trebor	Ennis Rd	061-454632

On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke, EI2HY
13 Hazel Road, Togher,
Cork
ei2hy@iol.ie

Welcome to another month of DXing. I have some big shoes to fill with Declan stepping down but I hope, like me, you wish him all the best and many thanks for his excellent work over the years. Declan's high point in recent years must be his trip to Campbell Island ZL9CI and his involvement with the Kermadec DX Association; which leads me nicely to the first item which is the cancellation of the planned trip to ZK3 Tokelau Island due for July and August 2002. Instead the group will activate ZL7 Chatham Islands for the CQ WW Contest in October 2002.

Certainly the month of February kept us all on our toes with a good number of rare and semi-rare DXCC Entities on air. With regard to the last item a station signing ZK3HC was spotted a few times supposedly running QRP with QSL via DL9HCU.

Highlight has to be the Five Stars DXers, made up mainly of members of the UK's Chiltern DX Club, with their trip to the Comoros as D68C. They had big signals on all bands and broke all DXpedition records in terms of total number of QSOs, the final count been an impressive 168,722 QSOs! There's even a story of them working a W6 standing at a bus stop using just a 10m FM Hand-held!

On a more modest level, some US amateurs made over 27,000 QSOs from Syria as YK9A while a team of Brazilian ops braved high seas and storms to bring us PW0S from St. Peter and Paul Archipelago, the rarest of the three PY0's.

The second rarest one PY0T -Trindade will be activated by some Brazilians again using the callsigns ZW0TB on phone and ZW0TW on CW sometime in October this year.

The cancellation of the trip to CEOX prevented us from having all the three CEO's on air at the same time as a group of Chileans were active from Juan Fernandez Island as 3G0Z and a German husband and wife team were active from Easter Island as CE0YEH with QSL going to DJ2EH.

If you still need Easter Island a large group of Germans will be there between

March 4-19 as 3G0Y, QSL to DK7YY.

Other DXpeditions to look out for will be the Swiss group heading for Agalega Island (IOTA AF-001) after cancelling it from last year due to an election in Mauritius and the new Government "asking" them to postpone, dates are now set for May 5-18 as 3B6RF.

Keeping it rare the group which brought us Willis Island -VK9WI- have announced they will activate Mellish Reef -VK9M- between April 21-24 as VK9ML, this trip being a survey trip for a larger full-blown trip later this year or early 2002.

Seeing as this will be an all time new one I will be anxiously waiting for them!

If you missed the 3D2CI guys on Conway Reef the bad news is that a second trip planned by SM7PKK and SM6CAS scheduled for April has been postponed so it'll be time to play the waiting game. The same goes for rumours of another trip to the freezer by the same guy who brought us the South Sandwich Islands in 1992 as VP8SSI.

After the callsign was pirated a few times it led to Tony -WA4JQS- to say that he still holds that callsign and hopes to go back there within three years for a one-month stay, watch this space !

The Conway Reef boys were weak on most bands to EI having lost their liners quite soon into the operation.

A total of only 278 QSOs for the first hour just shows how poor conditions were at the start of operations.

For those interested into how it got its name, it was first sighted in 1838 by the English Captain Drinkwater Bethune who named it after his ship HMS Conway. To the Fijians it is known as Ceva-I -Ra and is a reef about 3 km long consisting of a sand bank some 300m long and about 2m above sea level within the main lagoon.

There's little or sometimes no vegetation depending on the latest tropical storms but the main complaint from the team were the bloodsucking ticks who plagued them constantly along with high winds and temperatures of 50 degrees C in the operating tent!

The arrival of Tropical Cyclone Paula



Peter EI2IU who is making a big impression on 80 metres. (see text)

forced the crew to pack up a day early and sail to Fiji.

Staying with Fiji, if you happen to work 3D2HY between March 20-22 it's not yours truly on an IRTS junket, it'll be Hiro, JA0SC on tour hi!

Not so harse is the double DXpedition by members of the Barry Amateur Radio Society in the UK to the South Atlantic countries of Ascension Island and St. Helena.

First up is ZD8K between March 21-26 including an entry in the CQ WW WPX contest and then a boat trip to be QRV as ZD7K from March 31- April 12.

Well known Scottish Islands activators Tom -GM4FDM and Gavin -GM0GAV will have a slight change of scenery by heading down south to the Falkland Islands to operate as possibly VP8SDX between April 23 to May 8.

Staying with the Islands but this time in the Pacific, Pedro HK3JJH has said he's going back to Malpelo Island -HK0M soon and also some other Colombians have announced plans for a major effort to same, details to follow.

5W1BQ is I6BQI operating from Western Samoa between March 26- April 5 while by the time you read this the by

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

now annual trip to Pratas Island, BQ9P, should be over.

IOTA hunters should watch out for a planned trip to the rare Eniwetok Atoll (OC-087) by V73ZZ and others possibly using the call V73E planned for April 19-26.

Prefix hunters should listen out during the month of March for stations from Panama using the special prefix 3E500 instead of the usual HP to celebrate the 500th discovery of Panama.

For those into the digital modes a few ops came on almost exclusively on PSK31 from the rare DXCC of Wake Island -KH9.

Active almost daily were KH9/K7ASU and KH9/AC4G who did make a few excursions onto Phone and CW but always at 4:00UTC on 10m hi!

The good news is that Bill, W4WX, will be active during March, depending on transport from the US Navy.

Finally plans have just been announced by Jacky, F2CW/ZL3CW to activate the newest DXCC Entity added last March 2000 of the Chesterfield Islands, which belong to New Caledonia. This is planned for April 24- May 8.

Solar Cycle 23 Peaks

Some experts would seem to be saying that the peak of the current cycle has already passed with claims as early as July last year!

Indeed the Sun has been quiet of late with solar flux levels quieter than they were in May 2000 and news from NASA that the Sun's Magnetic Poles have "flipped" and reversed lends proof that the peak has certainly passed but conditions should be good for the next two years as the fall off from a peak is slower than the rise.

The Sun's magnetic poles will remain as they are now, with the north magnetic pole pointing through the Sun's southern hemisphere, until the year 2012 when they will reverse again. This transition happens at the peak of every 11-year cycle like clockwork.

Band Reports

Hopefully some of you will send me details of what you're working on the air, particularly the lower bands as the installation of a new Force 12 eleven

element Tri-bander meant I had to take down the rotary dipole for 40m.

Not having been QRV on 80m for a while, I hope to receive some band reports and luckily Peter, EI2IU, sent me a very impressive log extract for mainly 80m which I include below.

10m

We starting off with 10m which can throw up some surprise openings at late evenings.

Those worked were 3G0Z, 3Y0C, 4U1UN, 5U2K, 8Q7CR, 9N7RB, CE0YEH, D68C, FK8HC/P, FO/DL1AWI (Marquesas), FO0ARE, FO5RA (Tahiti), JW0HR, KH6LEM, R1FJL (Franz Josef Land), SU/ZS6WPX, T32RD, VE7DP/DU1 (OC-091), XX9TDX, YK9A and strings of JA's every morning short path.

20m

Having the new beam only up since the start of February, pickings are very slim for the rest of the bands so here's a small list for the main DX band of twenty: 4H2B (OC-093), D68C, FK8HZ (OC-033), JX3EX, R1ANF/P (South Shetlands), V73ZZ, VK4FW/P (OC-160), VP2MDY, T32RD.

Not very exciting reading I'm afraid so please send me details of what you're working out there and judging by the number of EI's who appear in the logs of various DXpeditions, a lot of you are active hi!

80m

On to Peter's exploits now on 80m
The log that Peter sent only covers the month of February but still makes a very impressive read!

In amongst the strings of VK's and ZL's here are some other DX I picked out. 7X5JF, 8P6FN, C6AFV, D68C, FG/SP3IPB, FO/DL1AWI, JX7DFA, KL7J, OX3SA, PJ9LS, R1FJV, T32RD, TF3TF, V31LU, VP9FU, W5AA/TI8, XE2/K9TP, YB0A and finally YK9A.

A quick trip to 15m had Chuck, 3Y0C, safely in the log for Peter so great work done and looking forward to more band reports for 80m from him.

That's it for this issue, thanks to the Daily DX and the DXNL for some of the news, any feedback or comments (good or bad) are welcome, until then keep listening!

73 de EI2HY

9V Post - DXpedition **Videos**

The FO0AAA Clipperton Island Video

Now available.

Written and produced by
James Brooks 9V1YC.

**This video is available in
Ireland for IR£15**

Declan Craig EI6FR ,
167 St. James Rd,
Greenhills, Dublin 12.

The ZL9CI Campbell Island Video also available at IR£15

**SPECIAL -
Purchase both videos
together for IR£20**

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The Annual General Meeting of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group took place on Wednesday the 31st of January 2001. This meeting was exceptionally well attended and resulted in a number of new members joining the club on the night.

The committee for 2001 is as follows;
Chairperson is John EI8JA,
Vice Chairperson is Gareth EI7FZB,
Secretary is Mark EI7IS,
Treasurer is Mick EI5DCB,
P.R.O. is David EI7FYB

The following committee officers were elected;
Nicky EI3JB, Eoin EI7FXB and Ian EI6GY.

The club hopes that this year is as successful as the last.

The Reluctant CW Operator.

By

Richard Ebbs EI2ID

You have a class "A" licence - right? You worked hard boggling your mind, almost ruining your marriage listening to Morse tapes or live Morse on the radio, just to get that privileged ticket - right?

So why don't you use it? CW that is?

Hands up all you "A" class licence holders who never or rarely use CW. Hmmm....quite a few I see.

Maybe you just did the course to get on the HF bands. You may feel along with many others that the Morse test should be abolished or reduced to 5WPM - maybe so, but can you still read Morse at 5 WPM or 12 or 20?

This article is for those of us who DID drive ourselves and our families mad when learning Morse code and trying to get our speed up for the test.

Occasionally I would tune around the CW sections of the bands on my radio and tentatively prepare myself with finger on Morse key ready to reply to a reasonably slow CQ call - but quite pleased when someone else replied before me!

So I decided to do something about it. This is how I went about it.

I hope you too have success with this method. You "B" licence holders too can benefit from my experience, you can practice with the following suggestions.

CW is a great mode. Try listening first around the QRP sections of 20m and 80m (14.060 & 3.560MHz) as these are nice and slow. Look for a slow English speaking QSO and listen awhile. There are plenty of stations out there using less than 15 WPM.

When you've found one, give them a call! Not all CW operators are 20+ WPM crazy, they'll slow down for you, try sending QRS (please slow down), if they don't, give them 73's and try again.

Most operators have a computer in the shack. You can hook up your rigs audio output to the line input of your soundcard on your PC.

I've got my TS570DG Audio input and output rigged up for RTTY/PSK, but all you need is the audio from the rig to the PC for decoding Morse.

Get hold of the program CWGET, it's a

CW reader program that works with any Soundcard (preferably on a Pentium Class PC).

This program runs in a small window on your screen with a red line which you match up with your received CW (by either tuning the radio onto the red line-recommended, or my clicking your mouse on the audio peaks). Then presto! Instantly decoded Morse that automatically adjusts for speed etc.

I have tried many CW readers and this is the best. So to help your QSO's you can check your Morse receiving on the screen as you go. (For those of you that would like to send Morse via the computer, there's a complimenting program called CWTYPE from the same author - see end for details.)

I find it easier (for all) to listen to CW on headphones; the brain doesn't have to work so hard filtering out ambient noises.

When you do finally press that key and reply to a CQ call and have a reasonable QSO, don't stop there. Try another straight away while the adrenalin is flowing. Be determined to crack the Morse and become good at it.

My Morse is not brilliant, but I enjoy what I do, it really is a great mode - and of course there's lots of rare and unusual DX out there to find.

Once you get into it, try turning the power down and see how you are still copied on 5 watts, often I've started a QSO on 100 watts and then reduced power to 5 watts and still exchanged parity reports!

Also the majority of CW operators use simple wire antennas with low power, so a simple station can be set up and operated easily.

Simple CW transmitters can also be homebrewed (see QRP cookbook etc.) So go on, wake up an old passion - and get on CW!

When you're quite confident with your Morse try using some of those features on your rig you've never used, such as DSP filters or CW filters, I.F. Shift, reverse sideband - and that elusive tool the CW Keyer!

I talked to several CW operators to see how they got on using the electronic keyer for the first time. They all found it

tricky at first but soon got the hang of it, and most wouldn't go back to a straight key. I've got a cheap twin paddle and every now and again I practice on it. This is my next project, to master the paddle key. If you do go live and have a QSO with the paddle for the first time - don't worry you still have the straight key right next to you for emergencies!

So you latent CW'ers, get back into practice. The bands are hopping with interesting DX and all types of CW operators whether on 1Kw or QRP, put EI back among the CW sections of the bands.

The fun of CW is there just at the press of a key. Also those "B" licence holders out there are keen to get on the HF bands so give them a bit of encouragement with a few hints and maybe a practice session or two.

HINTS: Write down or print out your 'Rubber Stamp' details...e.g. name, QTH, locator, plus a few conversational sentences such as weather details, QTH details.

Have abbreviations in front of you (you can talk in any language on CW with common abbreviations).

If using a CW reader, write down the QSO as well as you go. (You can also do auto-logging with CWGET with a logging program by the same author).

You will find many abbreviations in radio text books but here are a few:

GE, GM, GN, GB = GOOD EVENING/MORNING/NIGHT/BYE

TNX FER CALL = THANKS FOR THE CALL

UR RST 599 (or 5NN) = YOUR REPORT IS 599

HPE CUAGN SN = I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON

CWGET and other programs are downloadable from: www.dxsoft.com

Or e-mail me and I will send you a copy.
rebbs@oceanfree.net

So 73 ES GD DX HPE CUAGN SN
CW=DE EI2ID (Di di de dah di dah)

Richard Ebbs EI2ID

Silent Keys

Joe Bugg EI4FT.



insomnia or retuning from a late night party, Joe was always there for the friendly chat.

Joe's house in Kinvara was an open house. One was welcome to drop in anytime and use the radio equipment. He had a fine antenna farm, ably designed by his good friend and near neighbour Zed EI4HG.

In fact many is the contest that was operated from his house, whether Joe was there or not 'help yourself to the tea mate'. Joe insisted on real tea, made in a pot and allowed to draw, navy style.

We were all saddened at the death of Joe Bugg EI4FT.

Joe died on Monday 15th January. He was from Kinvara in Co. Galway.

Joe originally served in the Royal Navy as Petty Officer in the Communications Branch. Joe went to sea at sixteen years of age and spent sixteen years in the navy before returning to his native home in the early 80's.

Joe was one of the longest serving members of GREC, Galway Radio Experimenters Club.

He was the QSL manager and held the club licence EI4GRC.

Joe was also active as the Ireland representative for the R.N.A.R.S, with many friends from the Royal Navy visiting his home QTH.

It is hard to imagine how amateur radio in Galway will be without Joe around. His deep voice would be heard on the 2m band. Any visitor passing through Galway would always be welcomed by Joe, 'how are you mate, you're welcome'.

Joe worked as night telephonist in the regional hospital in Galway and could be heard on 2m at all hours of the night. It was not uncommon to hear conversations at 3 in the morning between Joe and those amongst us that suffered from

Joe kept all of us on our toes. When we failed to fill in a QSL card, he would be the first to notice and shout at us until it was done.

At antenna parties, Joe would take command and woe betide anyone who did not follow instructions.

On the Inishbofin trips Joe would draw up the list of all gear and food required - nothing was missed.

Joe was the radio controller on the Maumturk Walk for the last ten years, well known both by organisers and walkers alike. His booming voice was heard all over the mountaintops.

Joe's big white van was used for all field trips, full to the brim with radio gear and of course the brew up with tea and tabnabs.

We will miss this big, friendly man who had a welcome for everyone.

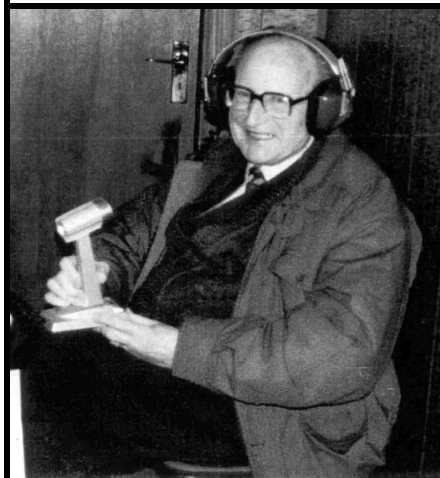
No more 'this is E I 4 Fox Tango' to be heard calling on his way into work in the evening.

God Bless you Joe.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Peter, his brother, and his cousins in Kinvara. May he rest in Peace."

Yours sincerely,
Tom Frawley / EI3ER
Galway.

Ciarán McCrossan EI4A



Ciarán passed away in Naas, County Kildare on February 1st 2001.

Our deepest sympathy to his wife, family and all his friends.

GI0GTJ Silent Key

It is with regret that we report the death (suddenly) of Tommy Simpson GI0GTJ on Tuesday 6th February 2001.

Tommy was a well known CW operator and will be missed by his many friends in EI and GI.

IRTS was represented at his funeral in Bangor by committee member Paddy GI0PED and former President Jim Ryan EI3DP.

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

Special guest at the recent Tipperary Amateur Radio Group meeting held on the 7th February was IRTS President Dave Moore EI4BZ. This was a well attended meeting, which was both informative and enjoyable. Along with personal presentations to Dave the Group also donated a trophy to the IRTS. It is hoped that the Slievenamon Perpetual Trophy will be used for a 70cm competition and details of this are to be unveiled at the forthcoming IRTS AGM. The purpose of this donation is to encourage usage of the 70cm band.

**CW Field Day
June 2/3rd**

**VHF/UHF Field Day
July 7/8th**

LF to LF Transatlantic Amateur Contact is History

Amateur Radio history was made in February when amateurs in Canada and the UK completed what appears to be the first two-way transatlantic Amateur Radio exchange on 136 kHz.

Larry Kayser, VA3LK, and Lawrence "Laurie" Mayhead, G3AQC, managed the LF feat using extremely slow CW that featured 90-second-long dits and 180-second-long dahs. The two-way contact took two weeks to complete.

"We are the first to do a two-way QSO on LF across the North Atlantic as far as I am concerned," Kayser said. "We are the ones who put the stakes in the ground; others will build on what we have done."

The VA3LK-G3AQC contact began February 5 and was completed February 19 with the reception and confirmation of VA3LK's report by G3AQC.

Kayser said the participants agreed in advance to a "firewall" between them for the duration of the contact and that all QSO information was exchanged over the LF radio link.

Mayhead said it was clear from the outset that, because of the relatively short band openings, he and Kayser would have to spread the contact out over several days.

"It was not easy," he said. "I stayed up late most nights--3 AM on one occasion--changed blown fuses in my transmitter six times, and reconfigured my receiver to include a narrow filter because of interference that was desensitizing it."

Kayser says he once had to climb the tower supporting his wire antenna in total darkness.

The UK has authorized amateur operation on 136 kHz, with special authorization and strict limits on radiated power. While Canada has not yet authorized general Amateur Radio operation on 136 kHz, Kayser and a few other Canadian amateurs have received special authorization to experiment there.

Reception of weak LF signals typically is done using spectrographic software like ARGO or Spectran. Signals are transmitted using dual-frequency CW--

or DFCW--or very slow-speed CW, also known as "QRSS."

Using their particular brand of QRSS, Kayser calculated that it took nearly 70 minutes for him to send his call sign. "Certainly the information rate will improve," he said.

"We did the best we could with what we had to work with over the last two weeks."

G3AQC and VA3LK were using a combination of commercial and surplus equipment at their respective stations. G3AQC estimated his effective radiated power at 350 mW, while VA3LK said he might have been at the 5 W ERP level.

In October 1998, the ARRL petitioned the FCC to create two amateur LF allocations at 135.7-137.8 kHz and 160-190 kHz. The FCC has not yet acted on the request.

License Fee Increase?

There is a danger that Irish amateurs and experimenters may face a price hike on their annual license fee, currently at IR £8.

Nothing is decided on this matter yet, I am told, however there is a danger of a price hike, possibly of the order of 250% so start dropping the coins into the jar in the shack, just in case!

The IRTS will be discussing this and other matters with the ODTR and will fight for retention of the current fee levels.

Four Metres

I understand from talking with members throughout the country that it is becoming very difficult to get four metres on your ticket at the moment.

We have a secondary allocation on this band of course, and there is considerable pressure on the ODTR for PMR spectrum. This comes about from the regulator's policy of making sure all PMR users are licensed, which is a position one could not criticise.

On the down side, more licensed PMR sets means more spectrum requirement. PMR users don't want to, and won't go, to digital systems (presumably a cost driven decision) so there is more demand on low band.

I have frequently called for amateurs/experimenters to seek permission *for all available bands/modes* to prevent this

type of situation.

We now need more than ever to look closely at all secondary bands, and especially the VHF/UHF allocations. What is it they say... *"Use it or loose it"*

FCC Denies LA County 2.4-GHZ Application

Following objections from the ARRL, AMSAT and others, the FCC has turned down an application from Los Angeles County, California, for an experimental license permitting airborne microwave TV downlinks (TVDL) in the 2402-2448 MHz range.

The FCC also cancelled an experimental license grant to the City of Los Angeles to operate a TV downlink system in same band. Amateurs have a primary domestic allocation at 2402-2417 MHz and a secondary allocation in the rest of the affected band.

"Experimental licenses are not substitutes for regular radio communication service licenses," said Charles Iseman, deputy chief of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Division in the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology. OET issues all experimental licenses.

The ARRL, AMSAT and the Amateur Television Network as well as ARRL members Art McBride, KC6UQH, and Thomas O'Hara, W6ORG, filed informal objections to the County's application. The League, AMSAT and ATN also had objected to the City's experimental grant.

The FCC gave the City until December 1 to terminate its operation and reserved the right to accelerate the cancellation date if harmful interference occurs.

The LA County proposal, filed in August 1999, sought FCC authorization to develop a TVDL system on four 2.4 GHz channels for use aboard sheriff's and fire department airborne units. The FCC granted the City's WB2XEN experimental license based on a similar submittal. The FCC said other public safety agencies in Southern California, including Long Beach, Glendale and Burbank, plan to deploy similar airborne units.

In protesting the County's plan, the ARRL called the application a "foot in the door" toward gaining a permanent berth in the 2.4-GHz band. The County and the City already are authorized to operate TVDL systems under Part 90

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rules in the 2.450-2.483.5-GHz band, but both told the FCC that they had experienced coordination and interference problems and sought the experimental TVDL authorization as a result.

In light of the denial and the cancellation, the FCC did not address potential interference issues raised by the objectors. Copies of Iseman's letters are available on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2001/03/15/2/fccletters.pdf>.

ARRL Seeks to expand Amateur Access to 216-220 MHz

The ARRL has suggested that the FCC expand the secondary amateur allocation at 219-220 MHz to provide hams with access to the entire 216-220 MHz band. The League commented this month in response to a Notice of Proposed Rule-Making, ET Docket 00-221, that proposes to reallocate 27 MHz of spectrum in various bands, including 216-220 MHz, from government to non-government use. In general, the FCC seeks to allocate the entire 216-220 MHz band to the Fixed and Mobile services on a primary basis. At 219-220 MHz, Amateur Radio now is secondary to the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System (AMTS). Within the 1-MHz of spectrum, amateurs may install and operate point-to-point digital message forwarding systems, including inter-city packet backbones, but only under strict limitations.

While the FCC has promised to protect AMTS and other operations from new interference, it extended no such assurances to amateur operations at 219-220 MHz. In its comments, the ARRL expressed fears that additional co-primary users "will essentially foreclose what limited opportunities there are now for amateurs to make use of the 219-220 MHz segment."

The League suggested that in the face of such potential constraints at 219-220 MHz, permitting amateur access to the entire 216-220 MHz band on a non-interference basis would be one means to accommodate Amateur Radio operations in that portion of the spectrum. Such a move would, the ARRL said, "provide at least some opportunity for amateurs to engineer fixed links into the band, which would not be possible in the 219-220 MHz segment alone."

Last month, in comments filed in PR Docket 92-257, the ARRL suggested

letting amateurs submit computer-generated field strength contours that demonstrate a lack of interference potential to AMTS sites, in lieu of having to get written permission.

In this proceeding, the ARRL further suggested that amateurs who proposed to operate in the 216-220 MHz band be allowed to use "fixed-distance separations" in lieu of the present consent requirements, as a means to demonstrate the absence of interference potential to AMTS and other co-primary users.

"Boing-Boing" Intruder Likely a Co-dar Installation

The ARRL Monitoring System will formally ask the FCC to monitor yet another intruding signal, this time on the 12-meter amateur band. The widely reported signal sounds a bit like a tightly wound, noisy spring being repeatedly compressed and released. It's believed to be coming from a surface-wave radar installation, possibly in Central or South America.

"It sounds like someone playing with a really noisy spring, or a very poorly tuned guitar string," says ARRL Monitoring System Administrator Brennan Price, N4QX.

"This signal is also unique in that it precisely occupies the entire 12-meter band, from 24,890 to 24,990 kHz, with the same pitch and tempo throughout the band."

While the signal does not appear to be overly disruptive to amateur communications, it is almost certainly an intruder. "The 12-meter band is allocated to amateurs on an exclusive basis worldwide," Price says. "This is not one of those instances where the observed station has as much right to use the frequency as United States amateurs; any non-amateur signal on 12 is an intruder."

Informal discussions with professional monitors suggest that the rough pulses--about two per second in frequency--are characteristic of a CODAR (Coastal Ocean Dynamics Applications Radar) transmitter.

CODAR is a specific type of HF radar used to map ocean surface currents in coastal zones.

An overview of CODAR theory and applications is available on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Web site, <http://www1.etl.noaa.gov/codar/codar.htm>.

No DXCC Checking in Ireland Yet

Bill Moore NC1L, DXCC Manager of the ARRL writes to inform the IRTS that our request to deal with DXCC checking in Ireland is "on hold."

"There are not many openings for this international pilot program. It is not likely we will be able to add Ireland to the list at this time" Moore said. "Our goal is to have card checkers available in several parts of the world but not every country".

He added "Often, it is based first on the amount of participation and while Ireland hams do participate there are not high enough numbers to allow us to proceed with a nomination right now".

The closest card checkers to Ireland are in the UK.

The guidelines are as follows:

The RSGB checkers cannot check cards outside of their country unless they have the approval of BOTH the Radio Society in the requesting country AND ARRL.

Irish amateurs can send their cards to one of the checkers listed below, ONLY upon prior appointment. This can be done by Letter, telephone or e-mail. Checkers cannot check:

160 meters; Deleted countries;

Cards over 10 calendar years old.

The checkers and their contact information are:

Robert Ferguson GM3YTS,
19 Leighton Ave Dunblane FK15 0EB,
Scotland
gm3yts@compuserve.com

Fred Handscombe G4BWP
Sandholm, Bridge End Rd
Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP28 8LQ
England
fredch@homeshack.freemove.co.uk

Jim Kellaway G3RTE
55 Ladbroke Dr.,
Potters Bar EN6 1QW. England
g3rte@binternet.com

Moore concluded "The main benefit to using card checkers right now is that you do not have to mail cards to ARRL and have them here for close to 12 weeks. The card checkers verify the cards against the applications and send the cards back usually within a few days and only the paperwork has to remain at ARRL".

So now you know!
Until the next one

73,

John Corless.

My Mystery Wireless

A Short Story

By
Liam Brady EI9DVB

Liam EI9DVB explains a true 'Wireless' story with a mysterious ending.!

Ever since I can remember I have always been fascinated by Wireless, right back to the time when I was about five years old in 1950 sitting on my mothers knee listening to appropriately enough, "Listen with Mother". This was a 15-minute children's story time on the 'Light Programme' from BBC 1500 meters, Long Wave, and narrated by, as far as I can remember, Daphne Oxenford. This of course was prime entertainment in post war Dublin.

Even at that age, I was more interested in the Radio itself, a Pilot model, than the stories I was listening to, and frequently asked my poor mother (25 years old at the time)" How does radio work"? "Well child there's little men inside that make it work!!). I was not convinced, but my mother was, and still is!.

Cutting a long story short. At twelve, the first crystal set, at fourteen a regenerative one valver for Radio Luxembourg after Radio Eireann closed down. At eighteen, Radio and Television repair, and after a formal education in Telecommunications at Kevin Street, a career which brought me through Radio and TV manufacture in the 70's and 80's in Dublin.

That's where I met Willie.!

Having 'cut my teeth' on old wireless's during the 60's (including local oscillator adjustments for Radio Caroline 199m -at ten bob a go)! I began to get nostalgic for the old technology of valve radios. As a change from the technology of the late 80's and started to collect anything I could find. I got great satisfaction in practicing my old skills and managed to bring a few pre-war specimens back to life.

Willie was a test equipment engineer with great technical and mechanical skills. If you requested a piece of equipment for example, to test Line output transformers at 100 per day including EHT, Focus, G2, Corona discharge, 5th

harmonic tuning, Flyback Time etc.etc. and make it safe to use, Willie would make it all from scratch.

Needless to say he knew all there was to know about Wireless, and was somewhat older than me.

In the course of time Willie learned of my love for old radios and kindly offered me a pre-war Philips Radio that had been in his attic for over forty years, and that he would like it to have a good home. I of course jumped at the offer and duly arrived at his house to collect said piece.

The Radio, (model 667A) was in showroom condition, and dated from circa 1937. It was complete with the service manual, bill of material, and alignment procedures. This also included a diagram of the dreaded Philips dial cord assembly. Great !! It was going to be the 'piece de resistance' of my collection.

I asked Willie if he had any anecdotes about the radio to add to the provenance value, and the following story unfolded. The Radio had been bought by his Father, in Dublin, before the war, and was lovingly cared for and polished by his mother, enjoying place of honour in the family home.

Willie had vivid memories of an afternoon when, aged fourteen, and sitting around the radio with the whole family, he listened to Neville Chamberlain the Prime Minister of England announce the outbreak of World War Two.

So, a clear recollection of an important piece of history was associated with this very radio!!

Willie inherited the radio after the war, but had never used it. Like myself, he had more radios in the house than he could possibly use.

This was March of 1989. I took the Radio to it's new home and put it away for safe keeping. I wanted some quality time to savor this new addition to my collection. After more than forty years in a cardboard box it needed all the care and attention I could muster to test the Radio without damaging it.

It was six months later that I finally got time to look at my new acquisition. I took the back off. All the screws were in place. It was as beautiful inside as it was outside. A full complement of the famous side contact 'Red' Valves, all in pristine condition. The interior had none of the usual dirt and grime of age. It was like looking into a time capsule, in all my years I had never seen such a 'new' old Radio!

I performed all the usual preliminary checks before switching on, connected an outdoor aerial, set the wave change to Long wave, and adjusted the tuning needle to 'Droitwich'.

I usually do this when repairing old radios as there is good signal strength and broad tuning on BBC Radio 4, (even allowing for the 2KHz change in frequency from 200KHz to 198KHz since the Radio was first aligned.) giving me a good chance of hearing something if the radio works.

I switched on keeping my hand on the volume and on/off control in case of emergencies, watched out for smoke, flashes or burning smells associated with old Wirelesses. The dial lights came on, the valve heaters and cathodes began to glow, a gentle hum was heard, all positive signs of life were there. Then came the first sound after more than forty years of silence, this mysterious radio uttered the following message:

"This morning the British Ambassador in Berlin handed the German Government a final note stating that, unless we heard from them by eleven o'clock that they were prepared at once to withdraw their troops from Poland, a state of war would exist between us. I have to tell you now, that no such undertaking has been received, and that consequently this country is at war with Germany."

Neville Chamberlain! The outbreak of World War Two!! On the same Radio!!! Willie's story repeated.?

For a split second I thought I was, in some kind of time warp, but reality set in when I realized that this was September 1989. The BBC was commemorat-

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ing the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of World War Two, and was replaying archive material.

So the mystery was solved, and even though I had not traveled back in time it seemed an uncanny coincidence that history had "repeated" itself.

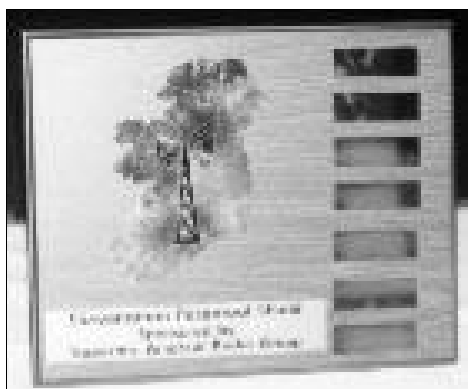
Allowing for the chain of events that led up to switching on the radio, and even the 'warm up' time, it seems like too much of a coincidence that this was the first sound out of the Wireless in all those years -- but that's the way it happened! I felt very moved by the experience.

Willie had retired by now and I made a point of relating this incident to him. He was highly amused by the story, and delighted that the old Radio still worked after all this time. We commented on how clean his mother had kept the radio, but he does not think she took off the back to clean the inside as well!!.

Willie passed away a few years ago, and left me with this memorable story and, of course, his 'time capsule' Wireless.

I wonder will somebody else switch it on in September 2039, will there still be Long Wave and A.M. transmissions then. Long Live Long Wave!!.

73's de Liam EI9DVB



The Slievenamon Trophy

Donated by the Tipperary Amateur Group, this trophy is for FM activity on 70cms over the Sundays in July.

Only simplex contacts made on FM between 433.400 and 434.400MHz will count.

One point for each QSO multiplied by the number of counties worked.

Full details will be published in the Newsletter.

Letters Page

The Morse Test

Dear Editor,

It is some time since the pros and cons of the compulsory Morse Test for HF operating has been debated in these pages. A lot has happened since then, and I would like to see the debate reopened. Here is my contribution.

I like Morse. I use it in about 99% of my QSOs. However, I have come to the conclusion that the compulsory Morse Test for HF operation is no longer relevant.

In the days when radio amateurs were heavily involved in construction and when CW was the primary mode of communication, a Morse proficiency test was an obvious requirement. Times have changed, however. Most equipment used by radio amateurs is manufactured, and the primary mode of communication is SSB. There are numerous other modes in use, of which CW is probably the most significant. To my mind, however, that is not a good reason to force anyone who wants to operate on the HF bands to learn CW.

Why try to keep those who have passed the theory test off the HF bands? As a regular listener to 2 metres I am satisfied that the "B" licensees are every bit as good at operating procedures as "A" licensees. In fact, many "B" licensees are far more involved in construction and experimentation with equipment and propagation than I am. The 6 metre band can be used by "B" licensees to communicate far and wide - I note that at least 66 countries have been worked on 6 metres from EI - so what are we afraid of?

Over the past 12 years I have met people with an interest in "shortwave radio" who have come along to the South Dublin Radio Club meetings to see what we do and what we look like. All of them are expecting that some test in proficiency in radio theory and operating procedures is necessary before they will be allowed to operate on the bands. We find it very hard to explain to them, however, that to operate on the "shortwave" bands, they must also pass a Morse test. In my experience, the Morse test has caused many potential radio amateurs to lose interest in the hobby.

I know this was not a problem in the past. But then, Morse was more relevant - many aspiring radio amateurs would have expected to use Morse most of the time. Also, amateur radio was of great interest to young people, who had little difficulty learning Morse. Nowadays, few young people find amateur radio appealing, but many middle aged and older people are taking an interest - certainly that has been the experience in South Dublin Radio Club - but they have little patience with the idea that they must study Morse, when they have no intention of ever using it.

I realise that the Morse Test requirement is in accordance with International Law. However, I believe that the IRTS should ask the ODTR to remove the mandatory Morse requirement as soon as this becomes legally possible, and in the meantime to ease the Morse requirement by reducing the speed of the test to 5 wpm.

Life is all about change. I believe that one of the changes that radio amateurs in Ireland and elsewhere should recognise is that the requirement for a knowledge of Morse before going on the HF bands has lost its relevance.

More than that, I believe that the compulsory Morse test is now a barrier to the development of amateur radio.

73 de Joe Ryan EI7GY
jryan@iol.ie

Contest Corner

With
Dave EI4BZ
ei4bz@eircom.net

IOTA Contest

Hello and welcome to another edition of Contest Corner.

This time we focus on the Islands On The Air Contest, probably the most popular contesting event with EI operators.

The results were published recently and as far as EI participants were concerned there were no changes from the claimed scores.

Congratulations to the Dalkey Island Group who were the leading EI multi-operator entry.

The Society has two awards for this contest. The IRTS DX trophy is awarded to the leading EI single operator and this year it will go to John EI7GL.

The Hal Hodgens Key is awarded to the leading EI operator in the 12 hour CW section and this years recipient is Martin EI8GP.

On the opposite page we carry all the EI/EJ scores since this contest began on 1993.

The EI/EJ record holders in each section are listed on this page.

Congratulations to all.

These lists should give you an idea of what is required to mount a successful entry in this contest which will be held this year on July 28th and 29th.

Counties Contest

Our own 2 metres counties contest will be held as usual on Easter Monday, April 16th.

Participants are advised not to enter agricultural land when operating portable. Please have a look at the new rules.

They may cause some confusion if not understood but the aim is to prevent channels being used continuously by individual stations thus giving everybody a chance to work everybody else. It should mean higher average scores.

The first of the field days will be the CW one held over the June Bank Holiday weekend.

Entries have been very disappointing in this one so a few new callsigns would be appreciated.

See you all at the Limerick Inn on the 7th and 8th.

73
Dave

Contest Calendar

April

7/8th	1500 - 1500	SP DX Contest	CW/SSB
7/8th	1600 - 1600	EA RTTY Contest	RTTY
7/8th	1800 - 1800	King of Spain Contest	CW/SSB
13/15th	2300 - 2300	Japan Intl DX 20-10m	CW
14/15th	1800 - 1800	Holyland DX Contest	CW/SSB
16th	1400 - 1600 Local	IRTS 2 Metres Counties Contest	SSB & FM
21/22nd	1200 - 1200	YU DX Contest	CW/SSB
21st	1500 - 1859	EU Spring Sprint	SSB
28/29th	1300 - 1300	Helvetia DX Contest	CW/SSB

May

5/6th	2000 - 2000	ARI International DX	All Modes
5/6th	0000 - 0600	Nevada QSO Party	All Modes
5/6th	0000 - 2400	Danish SSTV	SSTV
5/6th	0001 - 2400	Ten-Ten Intl QSO Party	CW/RTTY
12th	1700 - 2100	FISTS Spring Sprint	CW
12/13th	2100 - 2100	CQ-M International DX	CW/SSB/SSTV
19th	1500 - 1859	EU Spring Sprint	CW
26/27th	0000 - 2400	CQ WPX Contest	CW

June

2/3rd	1500 -1500	IARU Region 1 Field Day	CW
9/10th	0000 - 1600	South America WW	CW
9th	0000 - 2400	Portugal Day Contest	SSB
16/17th	0000 - 2400	All Asian DX Contest	CW
23/24th	1400 - 1400	Marconi Memorial HF Contest	CW
23/24th	1200 - 2400	SP QRP Contest	CW

July

30/1st	0000 - 2400	Venezuelan Independence Day	SSB
1	0000 - 2359	Canada Day Contest	CW/SS
7/8th	1400 - 1400	IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day	CW/SSB
7/8th	1800 - 2400	Internet 6m DX Contest	CW/SSB
14/15th	1200 - 1200	IARU HF Championship	CW/SSB
15th	0000 - 2400	Colombian Independence	CW/SSB/RTTY
28/29th	0000 - 2400	Russian RTTY WW	RTTY
28/29th	0000 - 2400	Venezuelan Independence Day	CW
28/29th	1200 - 1200	IOTA Contest	CW/SSB

EI/EJ IOTA Contest Records

	Call	QSOs	Mults	Score	IOTA	Year	Posn
Multi Operator	EI1DD	2,312	400	5,715,600	EU115	2000	11
SO 24 Hour Mixed	EI5DI	1,052	190	1,243,718	EU115	1999	2
SO 24 Hour CW	EI4VTC/P	578	64	250,752	EU115	1995	4
SO 24 Hour SSB	EI7GL	832	174	983,448	EU115	2000	8
SO 12 Hour Mixed	EI4DW	540	88	251,328	EU115	2000	7
SO 12 Hour CW	EI8GP	463	63	147,987	EU115	2000	15
SO 12 Hour SSB	EI4CF	182	95	177,270	EU115	2000	20

EI/EJ Scores Islands On The Air Contest (1993 – 2000)

Call	QSOs	Mults	Points	Island	Year	Position
Multi-Operator						
EI1DD	2,312	400	5,715,600	EU115	2000	11
EJ7M	2,596	325	4,613,700	EU121	2000	Bere 13
EJ7M	2,088	283	4,119,340	EU121	1998	Bere 10
EJ1D	1,752	293	3,706,743	EU121	1996	Bere 7
EJ7NET	2,067	214	3,279,764	EU006	1995	3
EI7M	1,812	224	2,814,560	EU115	1996	8
EJ1D	1,709	213	2,649,720	EU121	1997	Bere 15
EJ1D	1,764	198	2,312,640	EU121	1995	5
EJ4GK	1,896	221	2,301,936	EU006	2000	Aran 26
EI4GK	1,772	144	1,559,232	EU115	1995	10
EJ1D	1,996	126	1,542,240	EU121	1993	2
EJ1D	1,651	140	1,445,220	EU121	1994	6
EJ4GK	1,464	150	1,177,200	EU006	1999	Aran 32
EJ5J	1,151	165	1,175,625	EU121	2000	51
EJ4GK	1,294	131	1,147,036	EU103	1997	Saltee 28
EJ2HY	1,480	176	1,047,552	EU115	1999	37
EJ4GK	1,333	114	979,260	EU121	1996	Dalkey 27
EJ5CRC	1,110	92	638,296	EU007	1996	Blaskets 37
EI9GJ	688	92	438,196	EU115	1999	60
EI2SDR	472	110	419,760	EU115	1998	47
EJ7MRE	891	96	415,584	EU121	1999	62
EJ4GK	972	58	371,954	EU006	1993	24
EJ6FR	767	59	327,540	EU007	1993	26
EJ4GK	732	52	265,928	EU006	1994	18
EJ5CRC	517	80	311,200	EU121	1995	29
EJ5CRC	311	51	139,689	EU121	1994	25
EI6GF	148	20	18,800	EU115	1993	67
SO 24 Hour Mixed						
EI5DI	1,052	190	1,243,718	EU115	1999	2
EI5DI	1,149	1152	1,142,128	EU115	1997	5
EI5DI	615	115	492,545	EU115	1998	6
EI4BZ	463	125	397,125	EU115	1999	10
EI4DW	520	78	262,314	EU115	1996	9
EI4DW	459	70	223,020	EU115	1994	5
SO 24 Hour CW						
EI4VTC/P	578	64	250,752	EU115	1995	4
SO 24 Hour SSB						
EI7GL	832	174	983,448	EU115	2000	8
EI8GS	1,149	127	736,473	EU115	1999	14
EI8IR	902	139	683,046	EU115	1999	15
EI2IB	410	119	441,728	EU115	1998	14
EI7GL	376	117	430,443	EU115	1997	13
EI3IS	396	102	360,468	EU115	1999	24
EI7CC	300	122	356,484	EU115	1996	11
EI2IE	619	67	332,588	EU115	1995	4
EI2II	337	89	284,088	EU115	1996	13
EI2HY	116	98	160,622	EU115	1998	27
SO 12 Hour Mixed						
EI4DW	540	88	251,328	EU115	2000	7
EI4DW	152	41	53,464	EU115	1998	15
EI7GY	111	40	33,280	EU115	1994	11
EI2HY	45	43	25,761	EU115	1997	19
SO 12 Hour CW						
EI8GP	463	63	147,987	EU115	2000	15
EI6GF	532	40	131,880	EU115	1996	11
EI8GP	406	34	85,476	EU115	1998	15
EI4DW	219	43	66,048	EU115	1997	27
EI6GF	147	40	40,480	EU115	1994	14
SO 12 Hour SSB						
EI4CF	182	95	177,270	EU115	2000	20
EI3HA	246	78	174,408	EU115	1997	17
EI7GL	241	53	123,119	EU115	1995	14

Reading the Mail By Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #12 of "Reading the Mail" – my account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 13 January to 5 March 2001.

Not the usual level of small packets received during that time, still due, I hope, to 2000 summertime doldrums in QSL writing.

Nevertheless hefty parcels from ARRL, CRC, DUTCH BURO, SSA and URE kept up the numbers of cards.

In addition, smaller packets came from ARABIH, ARRL, EDR, NRRL, OVSF, PARA, PZK and RAC.

While sorting the cards the following were noticed and thought worthy of reporting:

HR1/K3VN, HZ1AB, LA1IARU, SX2000, SZ7KAM, XE2MX, XU7AAP, XW8KPL/CSN, XX9TUP, and XZ1N.

For island chasers the following were noticed:

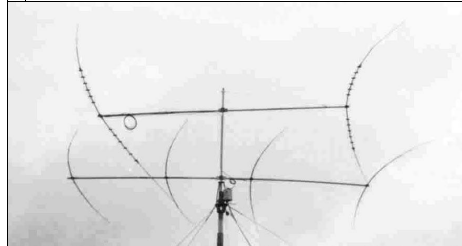
AH6PN/HR6, D68YV, HF0POL, KH4/W4ZYV, KH7R, OX/N6AA, R1MVZ, S92YV, T22VE, VK9XTL, V63EC, ZK1LGO, 5B4/YL2RR, 6Y2A, 6Y4A, 8J2000, 8M2000, 8Q7QQ, and 9M6AAC.

Congratulations to all concerned.

There will be more news from the Incoming QSL Bureau in the next edition of the IRTS Newsletter.

For now, all best wishes and good DX in 2001.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.



The two element 40 metre beam over a four element on 20 metres under pressure from high winds at EI7M during a recent contest.

constructed to date. The site also includes some excellent links to other homebrew-related sites.

Terry Ebdon EI9IW

<http://www.qsl.net/ei9iw/>

This is a very professional-looking site, with easy navigation. Terry has included details of his HF and VHF/UHF stations, his log books and a wide range of commercial and non-commercial links.

Clubs and Societies

Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS)

<http://www.irts.ie>

Webmaster: Leslie Long EI4DU

This is a big site, with plenty of information on amateur radio in Ireland and a lot of reference information. The site has been steadily developed by Leslie over the past few years, and has a very professional look about it. It has no gimmicks, very few images and an intuitive navigation system, which makes for quick and easy browsing.

Amateur Radio Emergency Network (AREN)

<http://www.irts.ie/aren/>

Webmaster: Finbarr Sheehy EI3DWB

This is a sub-site of the IRTS site, and is dedicated to emergency communications. It explains what AREN does, who is involved in organising AREN activities and some reports on recent AREN activities.

Worked All Ireland (WAI)

<http://www.clubi.ie/wai/>

Webmaster: Declan Lennon EI9HQ

This site contains everything you need to know about the Worked All Ireland Programme. The site includes details of WAI awards available and issued and, most importantly, planned WAI activities.

Irish Amateur Television Club

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~iatc/>

Webmasters: Charlie Lyons EI2EM, Dave Hooper EI2HR and Rod Power EI3CZ.

The three TV experimenters who maintain this site have brought together a considerable amount of information on amateur television - how to become involved, technical advice on equipment, antennas, cables and plugs and where to get them, the bandplans and how to give

signal reports. They have also included a picture gallery of the people involved in ATV in Ireland, "off-air" shots and test card samples.

North Dublin Radio Club (EI0NDR)

<http://www.iol.ie/~fammds/ei0ndr.htm>

Webmaster: Dermot Madsen EI4ESB

This site contains information and photos on NDR's activities, including a description of the club's involvement in field day contests and other events. There are also links to other relevant pages.

South Dublin Radio Club (EI2SDR)

<http://www.qsl.net/ei2sdr/>

Webmaster: Joe Ryan EI7GY

I designed this site, so what can I say? I set out to provide information on amateur radio and on the involvement of South Dublin Radio Club's members in the hobby. I have included a member list, with photos, and a page of links to other sites. The main challenge, I find, is to keep the site current.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group (EI2WRC)

<http://www.angelfire.com/tx3/searg/>

Webmaster: Mark Wall EI7IS

This is a huge site. It has plenty of information about the club, its members and their activities. There is also a section on the club's voice repeaters and digipeaters. A big proportion of the site is, however, devoted to amateur radio in general, with some original material and plenty of links to other sites (including sites with propagation data, which I found interesting). The site has a download section, which includes Morse Code and antenna design programs.

Cork Radio Club (EI5CRC)

<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/1273/>

Webmaster: Finbarr Buckley EI1CS

This site describes the club's aims and activities. Club officers are listed and there are links to other sites. There is also a page on the Cork Radio Club DX Award.

East Cork Amateur Radio Group (EI7M)

<http://www.necl.ie/EI7M/>

Webmaster: Cormac Gebruers EI4HQ

(Note that part of the address of this site must be in uppercase, as shown above) The EI7M group is possibly the most active EI contest group, and their site reflects this. The group's involvement in recent and upcoming contests is in-

cluded in the site, there is a list of members and some photos of them in action. The links page includes pointers to dedicated contesting sites, equipment suppliers and software download sites. The design is particularly good, with navigation links down the side and at the bottom of every page.

South Dublin Radio Club

The South Dublin Radio Club AGM took place on 13th February at the club QTH in Rathfarnham.

There were 21 members in attendance. The business of the meeting included a review of the year's activities and a discussion on plans for the future.

The most lively discussion at the meeting was about the mandatory requirement for a pass in the 12 wpm Morse Test before operation on the HF bands is allowed.

Club members recognised that this requirement was in accordance with International Law. However, on a vote it was agreed that the club would ask the IRTS to consider submitting a request to the ODTR to remove the mandatory Morse requirement as soon as this becomes legally possible, and in the meantime to ease the Morse requirement by reducing the speed of the test to 5 wpm.

The new committee elected for the year was as follows:

Chairman - Jim Holohan EI4HH
Secretary - Tommy Griffin EI9BTB
Treasurer - Brendan de hÓra EI3GV

Other members:

Tom McGrath EI7HT, Mark Condon EI7FNB, Mark Boothman EI9IB and Tony Byrne EI1404.

Congratulations to Nicki Mullally EI1224 who took and passed the Morse test at the Coolmine Rally.

Nicki is a member of South Dublin Radio Club and has been in the club's Morse class for the past few months. With the Morse under his belt, he is now concentrating on taking the theory examination.

SDR meet every Tuesday evening at the Ballyroan Community Centre, Marian Road, Rathfarnham at 2000.

Information from Tommy EII9BTB on 01-4943217

What are they on about now?

A look at the workings of the IRTS committee
with John Corless EI7IQ

The On/Off/On AGM!

Agriculture Minister Joe Walsh's relaxation of restrictions on low-risk assembly, was the final deciding factor in the *on/off/on-again*, AGM debate.

The Committee held back from making an instant decision when the F&M outbreak was announced, a wait and see approach was adopted.

After a week or so, it seemed like the AGM would be called off and a decision to that effect was nearly made, when the Minister gave the directive, so on we go. It was a very difficult situation for the Limerick club, our hosts, and I am delighted that it going ahead and hopefully will be very well supported.

Morse Speeds

When you attend a meeting of the IRTS Committee you can never predict which agenda item can cause the previously unexploded bomb to detonate!

In January it was a correspondence item from the South Dublin Radio Club which detonated the explosion!

SDR requested the IRTS to lobby the ODTR to abolish the Morse code requirement for access to HF bands, and while the authorities would be deliberating on this decision, to drop the speed from twelve to five words per minute.

Every Committee member present commented on this issue and a lengthy debate followed. It would appear that the express train of change is travelling in our direction at quite a pace and that we may well be unable to stop it even if we wanted to. Germany, Australia, USA, Canada, UK etc. have all dropped their speeds from 12 wpm to 5 wpm and it seems likely that this will happen everywhere else before too long. One of the issues discussed at the meeting was how would it be replaced if abolished, or should it be replaced at all. Would students have only one examination (theory) to pass before full access to HF was granted? I should point out that not one member of the committee held the view, which is much touted by the anti-Morse campaign everywhere, that "I had to pass it therefore everyone else should too."

After quite a discussion, the committee decided that since there was no overall demand for change to leave matters as they are.

Theory Examination

The proposals that the IRTS would take over the theory test were also discussed and advanced somewhat.

If the proposals are adopted, the IRTS would appoint an Examinations Board to oversee matters and a multiple choice question paper consisting of eighty questions would be the format of future examinations.

Under the proposals, there is a considerable emphasis shift in the topics examined, with sixty of the eighty questions dealing with Licensing Conditions, Operating Practices and Procedures, Transmitter Interference and Electromagnetic Compatibility.

The remaining twenty questions would cover Electronic Principles, Transmitters and Receivers, Antennas and Propagation and Measurements. There is much to be agreed yet and the minute that the final deal is struck, all will be revealed!

AREN Omission

In the last article I omitted the name of Paul Gaskel G4MWO, from the list of people who had worked hard on AREN and I apologise to Paul.

I hope that he is not offended by the omission, which was unintentional. Once you start naming names it is easy to omit someone and sometimes this causes hurt and offence, and I would say that in the majority of cases this is unintentional, it certainly was in this.

Contests

John McDonnell EI6IR the Contest Manager, told us all that contest entries were up in the past year, as was observation of all of the rules, which was a contentious issue in recent years!

It was a bit of a campaign speech from John, "numbers up in my job" and all that!

I am sure that he didn't mean it that way, but it is nice to see contest entries up.

Sadly at the time of the meeting he still had received no entries for the Six Metre activity awards, so get your entry to John straight away.

Your Callsign may well be the very first on the award!

The Tipperary Amateur Radio Group have donated a shield for 70cm activity and this was on display at the meeting.

It is good to see activity on all bands and the Committee are very thankful to TARG for the trophy.

Radio News Service

Since he took over from Dave Moore as Radio News Editor, Mark Wall EI7IS, informed the January meeting that he has received a good amount of material from various sources for the news and hopes that it will continue.

The current deadline is Tuesday for the following weekend, personally I believe this is very early, but it is not my call, so Tuesday it is!

QSL Bureau

Pat FitzPatrick, EI2HX, deals with incoming QSL cards and is responsible for distribution of the Cards to the Sub-Managers.

Pat works closely with Michael McNamara, EI2CL, the PO Box manager.

Pat has taken over the task of overseeing the return of non-member/unknown -call QSL cards received, and in addition is to act as QSL manager for EIORTS.

The EIORTS call does receive a number of cards and Pat will ensure that cards received for this call are dealt with, presumably in his own quiet and efficient style.

VHF

Joe Fadden EI3IX, has announced a new squares table commencing Jan 1, so the counters are set at zero again!

Joe also mentioned a 2 Metre. SSB activity for WAI and Squares hunters and hopefully this will be supported.

New Committee

The new committee will be "sworn-in" after the AGM and the jobs will be allocated, which will be interesting to say the least!

If you would like to help in any way, you are more than welcome and all help is appreciated.

73s for now

John Corless, EI7IQ.

Irish Amateur Television Club A.T.V. News



During the last few months tests were carried out to confirm a path between Mount Leinster and the A.T.V. repeater site near Kells on 10 GHz.

Rod EI3CZ and Charlie EI2EM travelled to Mount Leinster and conducted tests with Ronnie EI9ED just outside Kells, Tom EI9CJ near Dundalk and Roy EI7H in Dublin.

With the better weather coming up it is hoped to repeat this exercise from other sites in Wicklow, Waterford and Tipperary.

Portable operation makes it possible for any station to get involved in A.T.V. even if you cannot get into the group from your home QTH, get involved and get out and about portable.

The I.A.T.C. is at present putting the finishing touches to a manual which will

be made available on request for those who want to get started on A.T.V. The manual will cover equipment, installation and operational techniques.

If you would like more information look up the club website at <http://homepage.eircom.net/~iatc> or email iatc@eircom.net or Hon. Sec. Charlie EI2EM QTHR.

Pictures show Rod and Charlie operating from Mount Leinster.

Notice the new vanity call sign number plates which are now available on request from your local licensing authority.



Irish Amateur Television Club in association with Microwave Society of Ireland

Second Annual Convention in Kells, Co. Meath Sunday May 27th Start 1100. Talk-in 144.750MHz

Topics to include:

Live ATV demonstration on 23cms and 3cms using EI2ATR and EI3ATR Repeaters
Test bench for setting up your equipment.

Demonstration of SSB on the Microwave Bands including what's needed for AO40
Trade stands with equipment for all microwave bands.

Bring and Buy for your microwave surplus gear.

Website: <http://homepage.eircom.net/~iatc>
E-mail iatc@eircom.net

2 metre SSB

If you have access to 2 Metre SSB equipment, why not call in every week after the Sunday 11 o'clock IRTS news, on 144.300 MHz.

This news bulletin is broadcast from Dublin, from a good location, and gives very good coverage.

A number of operators monitor and call in on this frequency but never hear anyone.

It does not matter whether your antenna is horizontal or vertical, just give a call and let's try and get some activity going on this mode.

If anyone wants to try and get a sked going for any of the other modes, A1A, A3E etc. on 2 metres or 70 cm's, e-mail joe_fadden@yahoo.com.

The monthly squares table is up and running again this year.

Anyone working DX on any of the VHF/UHF bands is asked to please forward their totals for inclusion on this table.

The table will be published in each edition of the newsletter, anyone looking for the up to date scores will find them on EI7GL's web page.

Thanks to John for including the table on his homepage.

Dayton 2001

Joe Duffin W2ORA/EI8GT reminds EI visitors to this year's Dayton Hamfest that there will be a special Irish gathering on both Friday and Saturday at 3pm near the Buck-Eye Belles stand.

Look out for all the usual visitors, especially Kay WA0WOF and OM Mike.

World Amateur Radio Day

April 18th is designated as World Amateur Radio Day.

The IARU Administrative Council has announced the theme for World Amateur Radio Day 2001:

*"Providing Disaster Communications:
Amateur Radio in the 21st Century."*

IRTS VIDEO LIBRARY

Listed below are the videos being held by the IRTS Video Library. A charge of £1.50 will be made to cover the cost of posting which must accompany any application. Please send your requests to: Jim Ryan EI3DP, 11 Knockgriffin, Midleton, Co. Cork.

Amateur Radio for beginners (RSGB)

This is an excellent video in two parts, the hobby of the space age, (22 minutes) followed by “ How to become a radio Amateur”. (21 minutes)

Fastnet Force 7

A record of the DXpedition to Fastnet Rock Lighthouse, (40 minutes)

Kippure

A tour of the RTE Radio/TV site at Kippure mountain (30 minutes)

Howland Island Dxpedition

Record of the HI Group 1988 trip NO1Z / KH1. (30 minutes)

The New World of Amateur Radio – ARRL

A short introduction to the hobby of Amateur Radio (30 minutes)

Amateur TV in Australia – VK5KG

An introduction to FSTV in Australia. (30 minutes)

Seven Days in Space – NASA

A week on board the American shuttle Discovery. (60 minutes)

Amateur TV – RSGB

Fastscan TV in UK also includes the VK5KG film. (120 minutes)

DATA trip to Dayton 1990

A record of the trip to America by the Dublin Amateur Travel Association (120 minutes)

IRTS Anniversary Lunch

A record of the lunch held in the Clarence Hotel Dublin to pay tribute to the founder members of the IRTS, October 1992. (60 minutes)

Dublin Texas W5IMF

A tape by W5IMF at the time of the Dublin Millennium 1988, (30 minutes)

Introduction to Ham Radio

Includes STS 9 mission and fighter aircraft, (120 minutes)

Galway Radio Club 1984

Selection of events from 1984/1985. (40 minutes)

Galway Radio Club 1985

Selection of events from 1985, Field Day, Aerial lecture and River race. (120 minutes)

Pitcairn Islands

A look at life on the islands including some of the resident amateurs. (70 minutes)

Getting started in Packet Radio. CQ Mag.

How to set up and get on air with Packet. (45 minutes)

Radio Team Finland PJ9W- 1990 CQWW SSB Contest

An account of the setting up and operation of the winning multi – operator contest station by a team of Finnish operators. (45 minutes)

CQ Field Day

Setting up and operating a Field Day station for club enjoyment, training and competition American style. (25 minutes)

Getting Started in Amateur Satellites

A guide to equipment and jargon of satellite communication for the beginner. (50 minutes)

Campbell Island 1999 – ZL9CI

A record of the record breaking DXpedition to Campbell Island. Declan EI6FR was a team member. (60 minutes).

WRTC 2000 in Slovenia

The 3rd World Radio Team Championships were held in Slovenia in the Summer of 2000. Jim EI8GS and Dave EI4BZ attended from Ireland.

If you have any videos suitable for inclusion on this last please consider donating a copy to the library.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Book Sales Books, Maps, Logbooks etc.

S.A.E. to
Peter Grant, 37 Glenmore Park, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Telephone 042-9332641

Outgoing QSL Bureau

All cards for the outgoing bureau should be sent to the Outgoing QSL Manager

**Hugh O'Donnell, EI2HI
Baurleigh, Bandon, CO. Cork.**

Silent Key Sale (EI9BG)

Offers to Brendan EI0CZ at 061-354478

HF

1. Icom 740, All band. CW, SSB, FM. Built-in Electronic Keyer. 100 Watts
2. FRG 7 HF Receiver. 0.5 – 30MHz
3. AKD Receiver Model HF3. 30kHz – 30MHz
- 3a Trio 9R59DS Receiver, 0.5 – 30MHz

VHF/UHF

- 4 Icom 551. 50MHz all mode, 10w.
- 5 FT480 2m. 1-100w, all modes
- 6 FT790R. UHF 70cm, all mode
- 6a FT225RD Tx/Rx multimode

Power Amplifiers

- 7 70 MHz Microwave, preamp, 100 watts
- 8 70 MHz Microwave, no preamp, 100 watts
- 9 Microwave 432 MHz, No preamp, 100 watts
- 10 Microwave 432 MHz, no preamp, 100 watts
- 11 Microwave 14 MHz SSB/FM, 50 watts

PSU

- 12 DPS 30/12 Variable voltage

ATU's

- 13 SPS 300D 1.8-30 MHz, 1 Kw
- 14 Vectronic VC300, 1.8-30 MHz, 300w
- 15 Vectronics 949D, 1.8-30 MHz, 300w
- 16 MFJ 901B 3.5-30 MHz, 200w
- 17 Parker 2m
- 18 SEM VHF Transmatch

Meters

- 19 RF Trueline Pwr/SWR 144-435 MHz, 120w
- 20 200B PWR/SWR 3.5-150MHz, 2 Kw
- 21 Welz SP300 Pwr/SWR, 1.8-500 MHz

Transverters

- 22 Microwave 50 MHz, (144 in - 50MHz out)
- 23 Microwave 500 Mw drive. (28MHz in - 432MHz out, 10w)]
- 24 Microwave 500 Mw drive (144MHz in - 432 MHz out, 10w)
- 25 Microwave 500 Mw drive (144MHz in - 70 MHz out, 10 w)
- 26 Microwave 500 Mw drive (28 MHz in - 144 MHz out, 10 watts)

Misc.

- 27 Electronic Keyer CMOS Mk 1, 4 memories
- 28 MFJ Electronic Keyer
- 29 CWF 250 Audio Filter
- 30 Soldering Iron, 220V, 21 watts
- 31 Soldering Iron 220v, 120 watts
- 32 CX201 2 way Antenna switch
- 33 CX201 3 way ant switch, 1 kW
- 34 Heathkit Electronic Keyer
- 35 Kamtronics All Mode TNC
- 36 Bencher Key + assorted keys

Aerials

- 37 50 MHz 5 Element Beam
- 38 70 MHz 5 Element Beam
- 39 2m 10XY Beam
- 40 70cm 23 Element Beam
- 41 70cm Helical RH
- 42 2m Delta 8 Element Beam
- 43 2m 18 Element Beam
- 44 Rotator Yaesu 400RC

2 Metre Transatlantic Beacon

Members of the North East Weak Signal Group (NEWS) are currently rebuilding the Trans-Atlantic beacon. It is expected that the beacon will return on the air during early spring of 2001 from its location in Rhode Island, and on 144.282MHz. Several members of our group, myself included, are interested in accomplishing this feat of a 2 meter contact from Europe to the US.

Do you have an internet reflector/remailer set up for discussions or plans? Please send along any comments. We'd love to work you on 2 meters!
Mark Casey, K1MAP
map@map.com

Any interest in EI/GI??

EJ7GK On Tory Island



Well known Worked All Ireland activist, Paddy EI7GK spent 4 days on Tory Is. during February.

Operating as EJ7GK he made the Island and B84 square available to WAI hunters on 7.068MHz as well as working DX to N. America, S. America, Africa, Asia and of course Europe.

On Sunday he was visited by the King of the Island (the last surviving Gaelic Rí) for the reading of the IRTS News in Irish (Nuacht na Gaeilge).

On Monday Paddy left for the mainland by small boat in a force 7 gale. The journey took 2 hours because of the high seas.

On arrival at the pier in Bun Beg he was met by Conal Ó Dubhthaigh (EI1367) from Raidió na Gaeltachta, who brought him to the studio in Derrybeg, to record an interview on the program Barrscéalta. (top stories)

This was broadcast the next day. The interview covered island activation, DX, Nuacht na Gaeilge, WAI awards and amateur radio in general.

Radio News Service

All input for the radio news
should be sent to:

Mark Wall EI7IS
22 Sunshine Crescent,
Waterford
086-6302026 or
ei7is@qsl.net

Deadline 2100 on Tuesdays
for the following Sunday

Members Advertisements

Home Exchange

Southern California amateur would like to exchange homes for about three weeks next summer. Large home with pool. Located in Murrieta, 90 minutes or less from LA, San Diego, Disneyland, mountains, desert, beach. Golf nearby. HF/VHF station.

Dave kf6xa@qsl.net

More info at <http://www.nctimes.net/~althena/exchange.htm>

For Sale: FT101ZD All Band Tx. FC902ATU. FV101Z VFO. YO901 Multiscope. All matching. All manuals. £650.00 o.n.o. May sell separate. EI8BR at 01-2809382 anytime.

For Sale: Kenwood TS-430S General Coverage HF Transceiver; incl. Manual, MC-42S up/down scan Mic, narrow band CW filter 270Hz; £550. ONO.

For sale: Yaesu FT-470 2m/70cm Dual Band FM Handheld Transceiver; incl Manual, leatherette carry case, charger, rubber flex aerial; £225. ONO.

For sale: MFJ-941D Versa Tuner II; incl Manual; £75. ONO.

tharvey@ilogistix.com

Phone: 086-233-2478

For Sale, surplus to requirements: Icom 251E, 2m multimode with Mutek front end. Excellent condition. Kenwood 255E 2m multimode as new. Would trade for HF mobile rig, e.g Kenwood TS 50 etc. Micheál EI7CSG at 056-41608

Anyone familiar with the IcomR9000 receiver, please contact Eamonn Price. crystal@indigo.ie

For Sale : Yaesu FT50R 2m/70cm HT - wideband Rx with speaker/mic & charger..... £170.00

Kenwood TR2400 2m HT with speaker/mic, wall charger and base stand/charger. £75.00

Two Yaesu UHF commercial rigs-offers? Free : Phillips teleprinter. big/heavy/ clean/good condition.

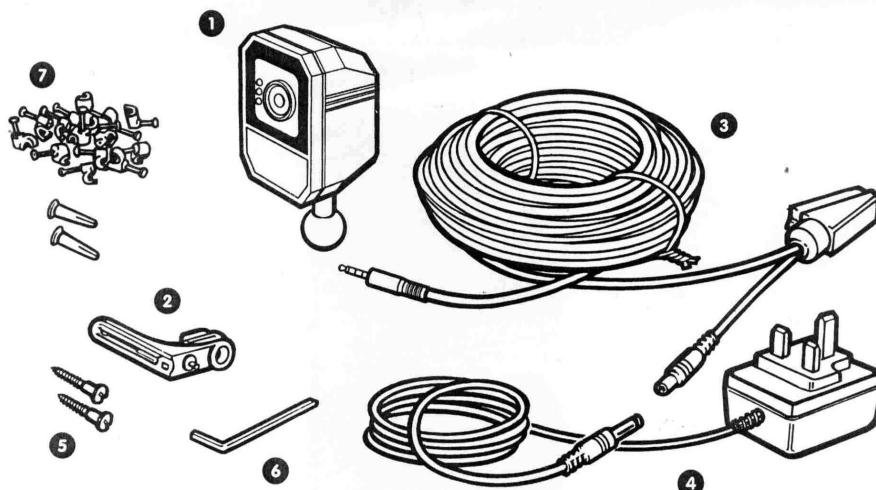
Sean Carvin EI2CR QTHR
Tel 01-8400989.

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| 1. Weatherproof Camera | 5. Fixing screws and masonry plugs for mounting bracket |
| 2. Mounting Bracket for camera | 6. Allen key for camera locking screw |
| 3. Powered SCART lead with 12 metres of extension cable attached. | 7. Cable clips for extension cable. |
| 4. Mains Power Adaptor | |

New CCTV System + Sound
Ready to plug into TV or video
Special Offer £49.00
While stocks last

The Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club

Annual Rally

on

April 29th 2001

in the

Killyhevlin Hotel,
Dublin Road, Enniskillen.

Further information can be had from
Frank GI3ZMX at 028-6632-9507.